

March 13, 2019

Board of Directors
More Than Me Foundation
PO Box 438
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Re: Special Investigative Panel Report

Dear Board of Directors:

I am writing in relation to the draft report (the “Report”) of the Special Investigative Panel (the “Panel”) appointed by the More Than Me Foundation (“MTM”) to investigate allegations contained in an October 11, 2018 ProPublica Report and to conduct such other inquiries as would enable the panel to advise MTM. The Panel was appointed by the Liberian Advisory Board of MTM, with the consent of the US Board of Directors and MTM management. I reviewed the Report in detail and made a request to the Board of Directors for an opportunity to respond to certain portions of the Report that are inaccurate and inconsistent with the evidence. Please allow this letter to serve as my objections and corrections to those sections in the Report.

I. **KNOWLEDGE OF MACINTOSH JOHNSON’S CONDUCT**

I object to the factual accuracy and characterization of the facts regarding whether I knew or should have known that Macintosh Johnson was sexually abusing young girls in Liberia before and during 2014. Specifically, I object to the inclusion of Paragraph 9.7 as inconsistent with the evidence and the Report itself. As such, I request that it be removed.

Paragraph 9.7 currently states a conclusion “[t]hat Katie Meyler knew or had reason to know or suspect that Macintosh Johnson was abusing the girls before and during 2014, but failed to take adequate responsive measure or to bring the information she learned or fear she reasonably developed to the attention of the US Board or any known public official.” The Report presents no evidence that I knew or should have known. At no time, did I know or have reason to suspect Johnson was abusing the girls. To the extent that I ever had suspicion of misconduct, I reiterate that I took immediate actions to investigate.

In 2011, when Johnson’s ex-wife made a statement to me about Johnson that made me uncomfortable, I immediately took appropriate measures to investigate and conduct due diligence to ascertain whether Johnson had committed any misconduct and to ascertain whether there was truth to or evidence of my concern. I repeatedly interviewed the girls in question, Johnson’s ex-wife, and numerous members of the community to determine whether there was reason to believe that Johnson had engaged in sexual misconduct or inappropriate behavior with the girls. During each interview and meeting, I was told that Johnson had not done anything wrong and the girls adamantly denied that Johnson abused them. Yet, despite these accounts, I persisted in my efforts,

but did not uncover evidence that Johnson had sexually abused the girls. I undertook these efforts *before* hiring Johnson to work at MTM. If I had had any concern, I would not have hired Johnson. It is imperative that the Board not conflate whether I knew or should have known with what I *could* have done differently or whether I *should* have doubted the girls' own accounts when they stated that Johnson did not abuse them.

By the Panel's own investigation, and as reflected in the Report, several witness accounts corroborate that I did not know nor had reason to know. Paragraph 6.6 currently states,

One of the survivors disclosed that long before MTMA was established, Katie apparently heard of their abuse by Macintosh and therefore approached them to tell her if Macintosh was abusing them. The survivor continued that on one day Macintosh slept with she and a couple of other girls in his bedroom. And that that day when Katie came back, she requested that we spend time with her. She was living at Old Road...**And in the room, she asked if Nyumah was having any affair with us, and we said no. And she kept telling us if Nyumah is doing it, we should tell her so she can confront him. But we lied to her and said no. when she left, we were talking among ourselves, we said if we say yes, Nyumah will get in trouble and people will say we put Nyumah's job at risk. Even though Nyumah was the one who brought her to help us, she did not know about it."**

The Report, Paragraph 6.6. As indicated in the survivor's statement, when I did have a concern, I immediately went to the girls to investigate. If they had given any indication that Johnson had abused them, I would have immediately escalated the information to appropriate authorities and reporting channels, but after the girls repeatedly told me that he had not, I genuinely did not believe there was any abuse to report. In addition, another survivor stated, "Katie did not know about it, and I never knew that he was doing it to some other girls." Paragraph 6.5, The Report.

The safety of the girls was always my utmost concern. As Antonio L. Bovoso, Board Member, indicated in a witness statement, which is attached hereto as Attachment A, I engaged in due diligence to ensure the safety of the girls and took appropriate measure to protect the girls of MTM.

II. **COOPERATION WITH THE PROSECUTION OF MACINTOSH JOHNSON**

I object to the factual accuracy and chronology presented regarding whether I was cooperative with the prosecution and trial of Macintosh Johnson. I was fully cooperative with the Liberian National Police at the complaint stage and during the subsequent investigation and prosecution. On June 19, 2014, I arrived in Liberia to meet with the Liberian National Police regarding Johnson's criminal conduct, and along with Michelle Spada, was a chief complainant to bring the case and am listed on court documents as such. The Report incorrectly states that Spada was the sole complainant in this case. The Report, Paragraph 1.2.21. The prosecution would not have started, but for my outcry and steadfast commitment that Johnson be prosecuted. I met with the Liberian National Police again on June 20, 2014 and June 23, 2014 to provide testimony. On

June 24, 2014, I attended Johnson's preliminary hearing as a claimant. It was at that hearing that Johnson was charged with rape, statutory rape, and abuse of ward.

Specifically, I object to the conclusions in Paragraphs 6.13 and 9.10 and request that they be removed. Both paragraphs mischaracterize the fact that I was not called to testify in Johnson's first trial as lack of cooperation. I was never asked to testify. If I had been asked to testify, I would have testified. The Report suggests that the determining factor in my appearance was whether I was in Liberia at the time or whether I proactively came forward and requested to testify. That is incompatible with the Liberian prosecutorial process, which requires the prosecution to choose its own witnesses to testify. In this case, given that I had been cooperative and involved from the inception of the case as a complainant, the authorities and prosecution team had my contact information and could have requested my appearance and testimony.

The January 29, 2018 letter from the lead prosecutor in the case, Director of the SGBV Crimes Unit, John A.A. Gabriel (the "Gabriel Letter"), is corroborating evidence of my full and continued cooperation. Gabriel's explanation also silences any speculation as to whether it was my decision to testify at Johnson's trial and whether I could have proactively appeared in court. The Gabriel Letter is attached hereto as Appendix B. Specifically, on this point, Gabriel stated:

I heard that Katie Meyler was in Liberia a couple of times during the trial. I had also heard that Katie Meyler tried to attend the case but because she was not one of the selected witnesses at the time she could not be given access because rape trials in Liberia are done through camera hearings, confidentially to protect victims.

Katie Meyler and Michelle Spada were never asked to testify in court because their testimonies were not necessary as versions that they were to testify to were already testified by other witnesses. Hence, the prosecution did not deem it necessary for Katie Meyler or Michelle Spada to attend court. If we had felt it was needed they would have been asked and we are sure they would have come. As it is an accepted fact that we were VERY cooperative and supportive of the prosecution at the time.

Gabriel Letter. Gabriel also stated that "MTM on the onset of this case and up to the end cooperated with the Government of Liberia in making sure that the defendant, Macintosh Johnson, was arrested by the police and sent to court." Gabriel Letter. As evidenced by the Gabriel Letter and the accurate chronology of my cooperation, Paragraphs 6.13 and 9.10 are inaccurate and misrepresent the facts. As such, I request that they be removed.

It is imperative to our organization, and to ensure the protection and safety of the girls at our school in Liberia, that any Report issuing findings related to this matter are accurate and consistent with the evidence. As such, I request that you advocate to the Special Investigative Panel to incorporate the evidence described above and cure the inaccuracies in the current Report. Thank you for your consideration.

For the Girls,

Katie Meyler